

wherein said means for initiation of the reading device engages the assay device in a lock-and-key interaction, whereby the reading device is initiated in response to and only when said assay device is properly positioned in lock-and-key engagement within said reading device.

12. (new) The test kit of claim 11, wherein said assay device comprises a porous carrier strip disposed within a hollow casing, and wherein the labeled reagent specifically binds to the porous carrier in the detection zone.

13. (new) The test kit of claim 12, wherein the means for initiation of said reading device comprises a switch actuator, and wherein said assay device comprises a contact portion, said contact portion and said switch actuator engaging in a lock-and-key engagement.

14. (new) The test kit of claim 13, wherein the switch actuator comprises a fixed projecting portion and a displaceable projecting portion, and wherein the contact portion has

a recess for receiving the fixed projecting portion, but not the displaceable projecting portion, when the assay device is correctly positioned in the reading device; and

an interface portion that contacts and displaces the displaceable projecting portion when the assay device is correctly positioned in the reading device.

15. (new) The test kit of claim 13, wherein the reading device further comprises means for pressing an assay device inserted into the reading device against the switch actuator.

16. (new) The test kit of claim 15, wherein the reading device further comprises a cam that deflects the assay device away from the switch actuator unless the assay device is correctly positioned within the reading device.

17. (new) The test device of claim 16, wherein the assay device is elongate, and wherein the reading device has a slot into which the assay device is at least partially inserted

through a mouth for reading of the assay device, and wherein the slot has at least one projecting lip portion extending over the mouth of the slot, said lip portion acting to retain the assay device within the slot when correctly positioned therein.

18. (new) The test kit of claim 17, wherein the projecting lip portion is disposed at an end of the slot, and engages an end of the elongate assay device during insertion of the assay device into the slot.

19. (new) The test kit of claim 11, wherein the means for initiation of said reading device comprises a switch actuator, and wherein said assay device comprises a contact portion, said contact portion and said switch actuator engaging in a lock-and-key engagement.

20. (new) The test kit of claim 19, wherein the switch actuator comprises a fixed projecting portion and a displaceable projecting portion, and wherein the contact portion has a recess for receiving the fixed projecting portion, but not the displaceable projecting portion, when the assay device is correctly positioned in the reading device; and an interface portion that contacts and displaces the displaceable projecting portion when the assay device is correctly positioned in the reading device.

21. (new) The test kit of claim 19, wherein the reading device further comprises means for pressing an assay device inserted into the reading device against the switch actuator.

22. (new) The test kit of claim 21, wherein the reading device further comprises a cam that deflects the assay device away from the switch actuator unless the assay device is correctly positioned within the reading device.

23. (new) The test device of claim 22, wherein the assay device is elongate, and wherein the reading device has a slot into which the assay device is at least partially inserted through a mouth for reading of the assay device, and wherein the slot has at least one projecting

lip portion extending over the mouth of the slot, said lip portion acting to retain the assay device within the slot when correctly positioned therein.

24. (new) The test kit of claim 23, wherein the projecting lip portion is disposed at an end of the slot, and engages an end of the elongate assay device during insertion of the assay device into the slot.

25. (new) The test kit of claim 11, wherein the switch actuator comprises a fixed projecting portion and a displaceable projecting portion, and wherein the contact portion has a recess for receiving the fixed projecting portion, but not the displaceable projecting portion, when the assay device is correctly positioned in the reading device; and an interface portion that contacts and displaces the displaceable projecting portion when the assay device is correctly positioned in the reading device.

26. (new) The test kit of claim 25, wherein the reading device further comprises means for pressing an assay device inserted into the reading device against the switch actuator.

27. (new) The test kit of claim 26, wherein the reading device further comprises a cam that deflects the assay device away from the switch actuator unless the assay device is correctly positioned within the reading device.

28. (new) The test device of claim 27, wherein the assay device is elongate, and wherein the reading device has a slot into which the assay device is at least partially inserted through a mouth for reading of the assay device, and wherein the slot has at least one projecting lip portion extending over the mouth of the slot, said lip portion acting to retain the assay device within the slot when correctly positioned therein.